

## **PRA - Trucking Protests - Emerson, Coutts, Carway - UPDATE #6**

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**From:** "Laurencelle-Peace, Lisa" </o=collaboration/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=lisa.laurencellepeace00442177">  
**To:** BOC-IM / COF-GQ (CBSA/ASFC) <issues\_management-gestion\_des\_questions@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Comms-West / Comms-Ouest (CBSA/ASFC) <comms-west-comms-ouestcbsa-asfc@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>, "Peters, Jeryn" <jeryn.peters@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>, "Wozny, Brad" <brad.wozny@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>, "McGregor, Kenneth" <kenneth.mcgregor@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>, "Johns, Timothy" <timothy.johns@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>, "Tame, Benjamin" <benjamin.tame@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>, "Grant, Maryon" <maryon.grant@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>, "Evert, Jason" <jason.evert@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>, "Crowe, Kelly" <kelly.crowe@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>  
**Date:** Fri, 28 Jan 2022 22:57:19 +0000  
**Attachments:** RE: Freedom convoy (1.57 MB)

Hello,

Please find below latest information.

### **MANITOBA** **POE Emerson**

Information from I&E – the organizer (Rick Wall) posted a live video to Facebook last night to explain their intention – he stated;

- they plan to do a slow roll like the one last week and will not be attempting to block the border
- He wants it to remain peaceful and for them to protest within the rights of the law
- he has been in contact with local RCMP as well to discuss their plans
- they don't want to intentionally disrupt regular traffic and trucks who need to cross the border, however, they may be slowed down a bit.
- He couldn't stress it enough that they want to be safe, peaceful and obey the rules
- they don't know how long they will continue this for because they are doing it in unison with the other convoys planned across the country but they are going to start by doing 24 hours at least and possibly that could turn into several days – they will base it on what the group in Ottawa is doing – they will make decisions as they go
- they are planning on doing some intentional stops during the slow roll
- there is a group of drivers from the US side coming down to show support
- Our recommendation for the big rig drivers that have a bunk and have means to spend the night safely on location would be best. We will figure out the logistics of that. For anyone else to go home for night and come back the following morning. And again anyone is welcome to come and go as they please.

### **SASKATCHEWAN** **POE North Portal**

Information from I&E – Intelligence Officer - Info from the Estevan City Police is after the rally in Estevan at the Courthouse, some protestors will drive to Regina to join at the Parliament Buildings and others will drive to North Portal and back – the words of the organizer. Nothing formal to be set up at border.

**ALBERTA**  
**POE Coutts**  
**Intel**

- Organizers have communicated to the RCMP that:
  - o their intent for a full lockdown with some exceptions.
  - o Anticipating 1,000 vehicles.
  - o food preparations is being planned for 1300 people.
  - o plan is for a sustained presence until vaccine mandate lifts which is the ultimate protest goal.
  - o Initial plans are for a week, but again stating that they will remain until mandates are lifted.
  - o Porta-pottys are being brought to the protest site which indicates sustained presence.
  - o Plan is to block highway a mile each way.
  - o Intention is for a peaceful protest.
- Fuel and showers are accessible in Milk River.
- One participant is of concern and IEOD has been engaged to do a work up on this individual

**RCMP**

- Establishing a specific intel unit to continue monitoring over the weekend.
- RCMP is focused on maintaining the peace and coordinating emergency access.
- RCMP advised they may exercise their authorities under the Critical Infrastructure Act to break up the protest – this will be assessed midday on Saturday and in consultations with their senior management.

**CBP**

- CBP is going to initiate a choke on northbound traffic.
- Travellers without legitimate international travel plans will be diverted from POE.
- Protestors will be authorized to do a slow roll on interstate, but will not be granted access to POE area.
- CBP will be metering traffic released from choke point for the POE area not to be overwhelmed with traffic. This will result in a gap between the traffic held back in the US and CBSA's primary inspection lanes.
- Intel out of the US is that vehicles are beginning to stage with flags and signs.
- US advertisement for participation in the protest is attached.

**CBSA**

- Working to cordon off emergency lane off to facilitate movement of emergency vehicles, livestock trucks etc from POE to highway.
- Fully engaged with the RCMP and CBP for response.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Lisa

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**From:** Laurencelle-Peace, Lisa <[Lisa.Laurencelle-Peace@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Lisa.Laurencelle-Peace@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** January 28, 2022 12:38 PM  
**To:** Vinette, Denis R. <[Denis.Vinette@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Denis.Vinette@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Blanchard, NathalieX <[NathalieX.Blanchard@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:NathalieX.Blanchard@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Lamarche, Lynne <[Lynne.Lamarche@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Lynne.Lamarche@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Gaspar, Fred <[Fred.Gaspar@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Fred.Gaspar@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Desrosiers, Martha <[Martha.Desrosiers@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Martha.Desrosiers@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Harris, Scott <[Scott.Harris@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Scott.Harris@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Clairoux, Lara <[Lara.Clairoux@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Lara.Clairoux@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; BOC-IM / COF-GQ (CBSA/ASFC) <[Issues\\_Management-Gestion\\_des\\_questions@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Issues_Management-Gestion_des_questions@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>

[asfc.gc.ca](mailto:asfc.gc.ca)>; Comms-West / Comms-Ouest (CBSA/ASFC) <[Comms-West-Comms-OuestCBSA-ASFC@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Comms-West-Comms-OuestCBSA-ASFC@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Marchildon, Caroline <[Caroline.Marchildon@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Caroline.Marchildon@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Wozny, Brad <[Brad.Wozny@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Brad.Wozny@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Tame, Benjamin <[Benjamin.Tame@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Benjamin.Tame@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Grant, Maryon <[Maryon.Grant@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Maryon.Grant@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Evert, Jason <[Jason.Evert@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Jason.Evert@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Johns, Timothy <[Timothy.Johns@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Timothy.Johns@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Peters, Jeryn <[Jeryn.Peters@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Jeryn.Peters@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; McGregor, Kenneth <[Kenneth.McGregor@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Kenneth.McGregor@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Dwyne, Erin <[Erin.Dwyne@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Erin.Dwyne@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Crowe, Kelly <[Kelly.Crowe@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Kelly.Crowe@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Rebenque, Bonibelle <[Bonibelle.Rebenque@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Bonibelle.Rebenque@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Ommannney, John <[John.Ommannney@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:John.Ommannney@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** PRA - Trucking Protests - Emerson, Coutts, Carway - UPDATE #5

Good Afternoon,

Please find below latest information/update.

### **POE COUTTS Update**

#### **Intel**

- RCMP have been in direct contact with one of the planners for the Coutts event.
  - o Planning to stage on 43<sup>rd</sup> Street in Lethbridge, AB and travel slowly southbound to the weigh scales (just north of POE Coutts)
  - o Trucks will travel slowly as they have banners and signs
  - o Intention is to travel to the border, at the weigh scales, and block the road for at least a mile on either side of the scales
  - o Planner indicates there is a lot of support province-wide and also among local farmers.

#### **CBSA**

- CIU & Staff briefings underway today
- Email communication to all staff regarding our plans for the weekend. (email prepped and will fine tune over the day when more info is provided)
- Coverage is established at frontline BSO level, superintendent level and on-site chief presence.
- Re-affirm during shift briefing the following:
  - o Professionalism, integrity, respect in all circumstances
  - o Protestors can protest
  - o CBSA personnel will maintain operations until our ability to address any hindrances is overcome.
    - o For example, if a commercial vehicle stops in primary and refuses to move, we would work to resolve that situation while opening an additional lane. If that lane were to become plugged as well, we would work to resolve that while opening an additional lane. We would work to resolve any hindrances at the lowest level until we are beyond capacity to address.
  - o We will do what we can do, what we are authorized to do, with professionalism and with an ever-present awareness that our actions must be able to withstand the closest scrutiny (including public perception).
  - o We will prioritize the safety of our employees and the public and the security of our country and CBSA information and assets.
- Our building will be secure. We will utilize a point person at the front doors of the lobby to be the first point of contact for all members of the public. Travellers will be greeted with commitment to service excellence. Travellers who are referred for secondary and need to be

- processed inside the lobby will be granted access. Members of the public who do not need to be processed inside the lobby will be directed away from our operational areas.
- Fire Department in Coutts is aware of potential protest and will provide humanitarian support to travellers if the highway is blocked. (This is similar to support they have provided to travellers stranded at POE due to weather conditions)
  - o Fire Department will also be first point of contact for any health emergencies.
- Local café is open on Saturday, and if there is a demand, on Sunday for travellers who may need food.

## **RCMP**

- SASSD management attended a call late yesterday afternoon with RCMP and CBP.
  - o RCMP is re-evaluating their strategy and revising their plan to deal with the volume of protestors via a check-stop.
  - o Meeting will reconvene today at 1100 MST.
  - o CBSA communicated the criticality of maintain an open highway.

## **CBP**

- CBP is fully engaged in their operational response.
- CBP is planning to set up a check point south of POE Coutts to perform outbound checks.
- If commercial vehicles do not have commercial purpose for travelling north to POE Coutts, they will be turned around.

## **POE EMERSON Update**

### **CBSA**

- Commercial BSO rosters have been increased to help manage flow of traffic.
- Superintendent coverage has been increased
- If BCP is activated, Commercial vehicles will be given approval to enter at other POEs in SMD
  - o Extended release privilege requirements for small ports will be waived due to these extenuating circumstances
  - o Additional staff may need to be re-allocated to other areas in SMD to help with influx of clients
  - o Commercial Processing SOP will be sent to the entire SMD District to help staff with the clearance process of goods
- PSPC has been notified should there be any Infrastructure issues
- EPC (Off-load provider) has been notified
- CN and CP rail have been notified. (rail crews cross often using work vehicles)
- Local Fire Department notified
- Local brokers to be notified

### **RCMP**

- CBSA has been in contact with the local RCMP Sergeant about the protest. Here's some additional info from him:
  - o They have 2 extra members on days and 2 on nights. The shift will rotate throughout the shift but ideally there will be 2 in area unless a major call for service comes in.
  - o They found some extra resources for the shifts so that's not an issue. There is another 100 + truck convoy in the city Saturday that is scheduled to circle the perimeter and the travel from Portage overpass to the Legislature. Hoping this will take some of the trucks away from our slow roll.

- o Media and signage all ready to go. District didn't like the check stop idea plus traffic is now tied up with the perimeter convoy.
- o For days the contact will be Eric DAHL and Nights will be Matt BUHLER. Easiest was to reach them would be through dispatch at 204-746-2323

## CBP

- USCBP has been given the heads up that additional truck traffic may be experienced at other POE's in their areas. They were also briefed on the potential issue of turning trucks around. No issues identified. Weekend CBP Chief contact info provided to me.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks, Lisa

**From:** Laurencelle-Peace, Lisa <[Lisa.Laurencelle-Peace@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Lisa.Laurencelle-Peace@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** January 27, 2022 4:04 PM

**To:** Vinette, Denis R. <[Denis.Vinette@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Denis.Vinette@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Blanchard, NathalieX <[NathalieX.Blanchard@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:NathalieX.Blanchard@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Lamarche, Lynne <[Lynne.Lamarche@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Lynne.Lamarche@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Gaspar, Fred <[Fred.Gaspar@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Fred.Gaspar@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Desrosiers, Martha <[Martha.Desrosiers@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Martha.Desrosiers@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Harris, Scott <[Scott.Harris@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Scott.Harris@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Clairoux, Lara <[Lara.Clairoux@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Lara.Clairoux@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; BOC-IM / COF-GQ (CBSA/ASFC) <[Issues\\_Management-Gestion\\_des\\_questions@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Issues_Management-Gestion_des_questions@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Comms-West / Comms-Ouest (CBSA/ASFC) <[Comms-West-Comms-OuestCBSA-ASFC@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Comms-West-Comms-OuestCBSA-ASFC@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Marchildon, Caroline <[Caroline.Marchildon@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Caroline.Marchildon@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** Wozny, Brad <[Brad.Wozny@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Brad.Wozny@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Tame, Benjamin <[Benjamin.Tame@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Benjamin.Tame@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Grant, Maryon <[Maryon.Grant@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Maryon.Grant@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Evert, Jason <[Jason.Evert@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Jason.Evert@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Johns, Timothy <[Timothy.Johns@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Timothy.Johns@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Peters, Jeryn <[Jeryn.Peters@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Jeryn.Peters@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; McGregor, Kenneth <[Kenneth.McGregor@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Kenneth.McGregor@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Dwyne, Erin <[Erin.Dwyne@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Erin.Dwyne@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Crowe, Kelly <[Kelly.Crowe@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Kelly.Crowe@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Rebenque, Bonibelle <[Bonibelle.Rebenque@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Bonibelle.Rebenque@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Ommanney, John <[John.Ommanney@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:John.Ommanney@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: PRA - Trucking Protests - Emerson, Coutts, Carway – UPDATE #4

Good Afternoon,

## UPDATE

### POE Emerson

District Management spoke to RCMP today and provided the following info:

- Sergeant has established a good rapport with the main organizer.
  - o The protest is still planned to start at 0500hrs on January 29<sup>th</sup> (Sat) and it was mentioned that they plan to do it for a 'couple of days'
- Highway Traffic Act and other protest laws were explained to the main organizer for their awareness of what is allowed and what is not
- Plan for a peaceful protest was re-iterated to the RCMP. At this time, there is no major concern that things would escalate
- RCMP suggested to the Organizer to use the Emerson intersection further north of the port rather than use our turn around lane north of our tertiary garage. This suggestion was well received by the Organizer however it is not a guarantee that this will occur on the day



- RCMP suggested rather than doing a complete stop for a set amount of time, that the convoy stop for 5 minutes every hour and continue with the 'slow roll'. Again no guarantees that this will happen however was well received.
- RCMP have a planned media release for Friday & Saturday to inform the public to avoid the area and that a planned protest is occurring on HWY 75 near the Emerson POE.
- RCMP have engaged with Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation and plans are in place to set up electronic signs at St. Norbert, Morris and/or at the HWY 14 intersection
- RCMP have engaged Manitoba Department of Transportation to see if they can provide assistance in some capacity. (It is not known if they could)
- 2 RCMP local members on-duty to be stationed near the protest. There will also be 2-3 other Traffic Services Members dispatched to the area to provide additional oversight.
- No appetite to arrest protestors. If, the situation escalates on CBSA property, the Sergeant mentioned they are willing to assist if the need is identified.
- Sergeant will email Chief of Operations further details once plan is finalized

### **POEs Coutts and Carway**

District Management spoke to RCMP today and indicated the following:

- Assistant Commissioner Ferguson is engaging the RCMP's federal and provincial side to respond to this situation
- RCMP have engaged the Chief who oversees the Sheriff's Department to coordinate response
- Current plan is to set up a check stop at the intersection of Highways 4 (main highways running north and south between Lethbridge and Coutts) and 501 (runs east and west and intersects with #4)
- At check stop RCMP will be checking that commercial transporters are heading to border for legitimate commercial purposes and will be checking travellers to verify international travel plans (do they have passports)
- This plan is currently being vetted by RCMP legal to ensure the check stop does not infringe on charter rights
- This plan, if enacted, would subdue traffic from the north.
- CBSA has requested additional support at south end of highway #4, in the event that Canadian truckers transit through the POE and attempt to block highway from the south. RCMP is reviewing this and taking it into consideration for their response
- RCMP media relations will be near the POE to respond to media
- Clear lines established, RCMP to manage highway and protest, while CBSA manages border operations
- If there is an incident or a protest develops on site at the POE, lines of communication are open and CBSA will engage RCMP as required
- RCMP is also developing a contingency plan for Carway
- RCMP's Critical Crisis Management team will be touching base with protest organize to ensure all activities are lawful
- We are planning to have a conference call tomorrow to ensure all major law enforcement partners are clear on approach (RCMP, CBP, CBSA)

Please advise if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks, Lisa

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**From:** Laurencelle-Peace, Lisa  
**Sent:** January 26, 2022 9:15 PM  
**To:** Vinette, Denis R. <[Denis.Vinette@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Denis.Vinette@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Blanchard, NathalieX <[NathalieX.Blanchard@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:NathalieX.Blanchard@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Lamarche, Lynne <[Lynne.Lamarche@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Lynne.Lamarche@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Gaspar, Fred <[Fred.Gaspar@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Fred.Gaspar@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Desrosiers, Martha <[Martha.Desrosiers@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Martha.Desrosiers@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Harris, Scott <[Scott.Harris@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Scott.Harris@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Clairoux, Lara <[Lara.Clairoux@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Lara.Clairoux@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; BOC-IM / COF-GQ (CBSA/ASFC) <[Issues\\_Management-Gestion\\_des\\_questions@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Issues_Management-Gestion_des_questions@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Comms-West / Comms-Ouest (CBSA/ASFC) <[Comms-West-Comms-OuestCBSA-ASFC@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Comms-West-Comms-OuestCBSA-ASFC@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Marchildon, Caroline <[Caroline.Marchildon@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Caroline.Marchildon@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Wozny, Brad <[Brad.Wozny@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Brad.Wozny@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Tame, Benjamin <[Benjamin.Tame@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Benjamin.Tame@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Grant, Maryon <[Maryon.Grant@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Maryon.Grant@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Evert, Jason <[Jason.Evert@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Jason.Evert@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Johns, Timothy <[Timothy.Johns@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Timothy.Johns@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Peters, Jeryn <[Jeryn.Peters@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Jeryn.Peters@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; McGregor, Kenneth <[Kenneth.McGregor@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Kenneth.McGregor@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Dwyne, Erin <[Erin.Dwyne@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Erin.Dwyne@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Crowe, Kelly <[Kelly.Crowe@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Kelly.Crowe@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Rebenque, Bonibelle <[Bonibelle.Rebenque@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Bonibelle.Rebenque@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** PRA - Trucking Protests - Emerson, Coutts, Carway – UPDATE #3

Good Evening,

UPDATE:

We have learned through the PRA Operation Support Unit of an additional planned blockade at POE Carway (see attached).

**NEW – POE Carway**

- Protestors believed to be leaving Calgary at 0700 on January 29 and arriving POE Carway at approximately 1000
- CBSA planning preparation similar to Coutts
- CBP advised they will be completing 100% export checks

**POE Coutts/POE Emerson**

- Chief of Operations to be on site
- Point person situated at POE front doors as first point of contact for public. If not a traveller and not referred for secondary they will not be authorized to enter main lobby – we have limited capacity as is due to COVID. Public restrooms have a different access point and will not be restricted from public use.
- Leave management initiated for the weekend. Discretionary leave will be denied if the shift cannot be covered.
- Management is offering early call ins to day shift to get ahead of traffic headed to the POE
- Management is providing alternate routes (where appropriate) for staff in the event the highway is blocked
- Border processing remains status quo until the situation dictates an alternate response (i.e. all PIL lanes are blocked).
- BCPs will be activated to re-direct traffic to other POEs should the highway be completely blocked
- Engaging NTC to consider adjusting volumes of referrals for this weekend
- Engaging RCMP to consider having a cruiser at point where POE site turns into highway to serve as a deterrent to any traffic coming into POE site from the North and to help facilitate northbound movement of traffic
- Engaging HQ Travellers branch on extending hours at nearby POEs with reduced hours of service

- Engaging HQ Commercial branch on processing commercial entries at nearby POEs that do not offer commercial services or do so during limited hours
- Engaged Communications West to prepare advance products to address disruption of service notifications; respond to media queries etc
- Engaged Security Portfolio West – need to ensure safeguarding assets etc

#### **Update from Law Enforcement Meeting at Coutts**

- Meeting included RCMP, Customs and Border Protection, Border Patrol, Alberta Sheriffs, Montana DOT, Toole County Sheriffs, IEOD, and others
- Key take away were comments by RCMP:
  - o In response to question regarding RCMP response, 'At mercy of protestors'
  - o In response to whether or not RCMP maintain an open lane on the highway, "If they let us."
  - o Communicated they will have limited resources to counteract the protest
  - o will utilize a negotiator as necessary
  - o will seek to educate, ultimately it will be a resource issue
  - o In some circumstances, the province can be solicited to close the highway
  - o also indicated they will consider having an on-site presence in Coutts – this is being reviewed by SASSD management
- CBP will be maintaining a command centre over the weekend at POE Sweetgrass (joint facility with Coutts)
- Indications that border protest may expand to other POEs – Del Bonita (although Del Bonita is closed on the weekend), and possibly others

#### **Issues of Operational Significance**

- Coutts is processing a high number of COVID+ travellers daily (40-60) which requires enhanced cleaning protocols which will require highway access for cleaners to access POE site. Additionally, it is important for the positive travellers to exit the POE site to get to their quarantine location as soon as possible.
- Potential to coordinate arrival and departure of staff to POE site
- Need to ensure coordination for emergency situations (i.e. access for emergency services for medical situations at POE)
- Facilitation of northbound/southbound traffic – emergency situation, live animals, loads that will spoil, etc.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks, Lisa

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**From:** Rebenque, Bonibelle <[Bonibelle.Rebenque@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Bonibelle.Rebenque@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** January 25, 2022 5:06 PM

**To:** Vinette, Denis R. <[Denis.Vinette@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Denis.Vinette@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Blanchard, NathalieX <[NathalieX.Blanchard@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:NathalieX.Blanchard@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Badour, Dan <[Dan.Badour@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Dan.Badour@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Gaspar, Fred <[Fred.Gaspar@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Fred.Gaspar@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Desrosiers, Martha <[Martha.Desrosiers@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Martha.Desrosiers@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Harris, Scott <[Scott.Harris@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Scott.Harris@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Clairoux, Lara <[Lara.Clairoux@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Lara.Clairoux@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; BOC-IM / COF-GQ (CBSA/ASFC) <[Issues\\_Management-Gestion\\_des\\_questions@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Issues_Management-Gestion_des_questions@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Comms-West / Comms-Ouest (CBSA/ASFC) <[Comms-West-Comms-OuestCBSA-ASFC@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Comms-West-Comms-OuestCBSA-ASFC@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Crowe, Kelly <[Kelly.Crowe@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Kelly.Crowe@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Marchildon, Caroline <[Caroline.Marchildon@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Caroline.Marchildon@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** Wozny, Brad <[Brad.Wozny@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Brad.Wozny@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Tame, Benjamin <[Benjamin.Tame@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Benjamin.Tame@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>



[asfc.gc.ca](mailto:asfc.gc.ca)>; Laurencelle-Peace, Lisa <[Lisa.Laurencelle-Peace@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Lisa.Laurencelle-Peace@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Grant, Maryon <[Maryon.Grant@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Maryon.Grant@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Evert, Jason <[Jason.Evert@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Jason.Evert@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Valentine, Greg <[Greg.Valentine@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Greg.Valentine@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Johns, Timothy <[Timothy.Johns@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Timothy.Johns@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Peters, Jeryn <[Jeryn.Peters@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Jeryn.Peters@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Remillard, Roxie <[Roxie.Remillard@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Roxie.Remillard@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: PRA - Trucking Protests - Regway, Emerson, Coutts UPDATE #2

As an update, we received notification that a protest may occur at Emerson on January 29 as well. Emerson will be prepared similarly to Coutts.

We have also been advised that the planner of the protest at Coutts intends on blocking traffic. The following plan is in place for Coutts:

- CBSA is engaged with RCMP. RCMP has not provided their plan for managing the protest, but should be in a position to provide an update at tomorrow's law enforcement meeting being hosted by Customs and Border Protection.
- CBSA operations at POE Coutts will utilize fleet vehicles on-site to seal roadways into the operational areas of the port.
- CBSA personnel will attempt to deescalate any on-site protests and any attempts to hinder or obstruct POE operations. POE management is working with CPIMD and with the RCMP to clarify roles and responsibilities for various scenarios:
  - o Foot protest with multiple protestors who are not obstructing operations
  - o Foot protest with multiple protestors who are obstructing operations
  - o Protestor who utilizes vehicle to block the flow of traffic (commercial or traveller) at POE
  - o Protestor who blocks highway

Bonibelle Rebenque (she/her)  
Executive Advisor to the Regional Director General  
Prairie Region  
204-292-9801

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**From:** Rebenque, Bonibelle  
**Sent:** January 21, 2022 3:24 PM  
**To:** Vinette, Denis R. <[Denis.Vinette@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Denis.Vinette@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Blanchard, NathalieX <[NathalieX.Blanchard@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:NathalieX.Blanchard@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Badour, Dan <[Dan.Badour@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Dan.Badour@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Gaspar, Fred <[Fred.Gaspar@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Fred.Gaspar@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Desrosiers, Martha <[Martha.Desrosiers@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Martha.Desrosiers@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Harris, Scott <[Scott.Harris@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Scott.Harris@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Clairoux, Lara <[Lara.Clairoux@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Lara.Clairoux@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; BOC-IM / COF-GQ (CBSA/ASFC) <[Issues\\_Management-Gestion\\_des\\_questions@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Issues_Management-Gestion_des_questions@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Comms-West / Comms-Ouest (CBSA/ASFC) <[Comms-West-Comms-OuestCBSA-ASFC@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Comms-West-Comms-OuestCBSA-ASFC@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Crowe, Kelly <[Kelly.Crowe@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Kelly.Crowe@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Marchildon, Caroline <[Caroline.Marchildon@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Caroline.Marchildon@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Wozny, Brad <[Brad.Wozny@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Brad.Wozny@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Tame, Benjamin <[Benjamin.Tame@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Benjamin.Tame@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Laurencelle-Peace, Lisa <[Lisa.Laurencelle-Peace@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Lisa.Laurencelle-Peace@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Grant, Maryon <[Maryon.Grant@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Maryon.Grant@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Evert, Jason <[Jason.Evert@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Jason.Evert@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Valentine, Greg <[Greg.Valentine@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Greg.Valentine@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Johns, Timothy <[Timothy.Johns@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Timothy.Johns@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Peters, Jeryn <[Jeryn.Peters@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Jeryn.Peters@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>; Remillard, Roxie <[Roxie.Remillard@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Roxie.Remillard@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** PRA - Trucking Protests - Regway, Emerson, Coutts

Good afternoon,

We have been advised of protests occurring in the region at the following POEs:

- Regway – January 22, 2022 (attached)
- Emerson – January 23, 2022

- Coutts – January 29, 2022 (attached)

We will report on impacts if and when it occurs.

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**Issue:** Possible trucking protests at the ports of Regway, Emerson and Coutts.

**Impact:**

- BWT anticipated. Traveller and commercial delays both south and north bound are being experienced anywhere from 10-20 minutes in duration. These delays are after CBSA processing and prior to CBP processing.
- Media presence and attention is expected. Regional communication has been briefed and is assisting with any requests for comment from the Agency.
- RCMP have been contacted and are aware of the situation and will enforce the highway traffic act accordingly.

**Next steps:**

- Operation will continue to monitor the impact and respond accordingly with continued briefings.
- All internal and external stakeholders have been engaged and are aware of this event. This includes, CBSA, PHAC, USCBP and RCMP.

**Planning:**

- CBSA Chief looking to supplement Superintendent coverage – not confirmed – updates will be provided as they become available
- CBSA Superintendent looking to supplement BSO coverage – not confirmed – updates will be provided as they become available
- CBSA Intelligence has been engaged – and they have also been in contact with RCMP and have issued a bulletin in this regard.
- US CBP has been engaged and will be briefing their senior management
- CBSA communications
  - o BSOs and Superintendents has been sent information on referring media inquiries to communications and that media is not allowed to film on CBSA property
  - o COMMS West Assistant Director, Kelly Crowe, advised of planned convoy; Assistant Director Crowe can be reached at 613-220-3961
- CBSA Regional Programs has been engaged and will be available to provide support if needed
  - o Regional Program Manager Dorothy Woods is the duty manager this weekend and can be reached at 204-770-4083
- CBSA security has been engaged and apprised of the situation

- o CBSA Security West Portfolio Manager Wesley Shum is available at 604-404-0518
- PHAC
  - o PHAC manager has been briefed
  - o PHAC would not have a physical presence on sight during the time of the protest, but will be advising their staff and their Central Notification System team that there is a potential for increased referrals to PHAC should the protest cross the border
- In terms of reporting, the following process will be established:
  - o Any issues will be reported by BSOs to the Superintendent in real time while on shift or via phone if on call
  - o Superintendent will engage Chief via phone as the duty Chief for the District this weekend
  - o Chief will engage Director via phone as Director for the District and also Director Grant as Regional Duty Executive this weekend
  - o Engage with RDG Wozny and Executive Director Laurencelle-Peace via phone as deemed necessary
  - o Information will be provided by email to all on this message and to the BOC via an SRT should any protest activities occur. Regular updates will be provided as the situation dictates.
  - o The information provided will include a description of the protest activity, impacts to CBSA operations, impacts to stakeholders (CBP, RCMP, PHAC), mitigation measures, and any other relevant details
  - o Stakeholders will be engaged as needed by local CBSA management

Thank you,

Bonibelle Rebenque (she/her)  
 Executive Advisor to the Regional Director General, Prairie Region  
 Canada Border Services Agency / Government of Canada  
[Bonibelle.Rebenque@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Bonibelle.Rebenque@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca) / Tel: 204-292-9801 / TTY: 1-866-335-3237

Conseillère exécutive au directeur général régional, Région des prairies  
 Agence des services frontaliers du Canada / Gouvernement du Canada  
[Bonibelle.Rebenque@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Bonibelle.Rebenque@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca) / Tel: 204-292-9801 / ATS: 1-866-335-3237